BMIS Art Reflection work

1. How much can we learn about the past for the history of Art?

We can certainly use the past to help us understand certain aspects of art, for example how different styles and types of art have evolved over time. We could study how famous artists invented certain styles and came up with ideas that then influenced later artists. For example, how The Beatles came up with certain musical ideas that later influenced later generations of musicians or how Van Gogh’s work continues to influence painters. Through this we can learn about the trends and stylistic changes of different forms of art over time and the changes thereof.

However, we can only use the past to find out so much about the history of art. For as long as human beings have been expressing themselves, there has been art. Not all of this art has been properly documented, though. When studying the history of art, you only really get to learn about art pieces that are known or appreciated. There is so much more art that is simply being dismissed. Therefore, while learning about the past is certainly useful for the history of art, it will never give you a complete understanding of all art.

1. To what extent do the arts help us to see the world with new eyes?

Art is a way of communicating to others your inner feelings and emotions. When doing this, the artist (inadvertently or otherwise), also communicates to others how they perceive the world around them. Therefore when someone sees or hears a piece of art, they are experiencing the artist’s perception of the world. Art opens our eyes to other people’s ideas and mindsets. It is because of this that I think that, without art we would be very single-minded and a lot less individualistic.

On the other hand, when you see or hear a piece of art, you might not necessarily see what the artist intended for you to see. You might see it slightly differently to everyone else. This is because you, and everyone else, may perceive the piece in your own unique way and therefore the piece may not necessarily affect your perception of the world. It is therefore arguable that when one receives a piece of art, the perceptions of the artist are not directly communicated to the receiver of the art, but rather filtered through the receiver’s own perceptions, based around their own personality and experiences.